

It is remarkable that this first Kenya Grasshopper Warbler should have been captured in June, when virtually all Palaearctic passerines seem to be completely absent from East Africa.

REFERENCES

- ASH, J.S. & WATSON, G.E. 1974. *Locustella naevia* in Ethiopia. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 94: 39-40.
- MOREAU, R.E. 1972. *The Palaearctic-African bird migration systems*. London & New York: Academic Press.
- WILLIAMSON, K. 1968. *Identification for ringers I. The genera Cettia, Locustella, Acrocephalus, and Hippolais*. 3rd ed. British Trust for Ornithology. V.C. & C.C. Fayad, Box 14790, Nairobi.

Received 5 August 1977.

THE NEST AND EGGS OF THE CHESTNUT-FRONTED SHRIKE *PRIONOPS SCOPIFRONS*

P.L Britton & H.A. Britton

The Chestnut-fronted Shrike *Prionops scopifrons* is a characteristic species of bird parties in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in coastal Kenya, especially in *Brachystegia* woodland, yet its eggs are still undescribed. Its nest has been described from both Amani (nominate race) and Sokoke (*kiriki*): the young at Amani were fed by three birds, in a nest built by several birds; but a bird incubating for more than three hours in Sokoke Forest was not visited at all (see Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1960, Britton & Britton 1971). Like other *Prionops* species, these are intensely sociable birds for which co-operative breeding is probably the norm. The three small young in a nest found in Sokoke Forest on 18 April 1977 were fed *Ochma* berries by the sitting bird and two other adults.

A nest with three fresh eggs was found in Sokoke Forest on 20 April 1977. These were very pale grey, tinged turquoise, liberally spotted and flecked lavender, brick and grey, especially in a ring 6-8 mm wide around the middle of each egg, closer to the blunt end. They measured (mm and g): 19.0x15.3, 2.3; 20.0x15.2, 2.4; 19.6x15.3, 2.4. The nest was a cup of grasses and thin bark, bound on the outside with cobwebs, 62x65 mm in diameter with an internal depth of 24 mm. All three Sokoke nests were in forks of branches of *Brachystegia spiciiformis* at 9 m, 4.5 m and 6.5 m above the ground. These three nests together with nine records of flying young fed by adults refer to egg-laying in each of the months January-July, peaking in April (6).

Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960) state that the immature has the forehead blackish, uniform with the crown, and that the feathers of the alula have white tips. In our experience, the white tips near the alula are lost or very faint soon after fledging, so that they are not usually visible in recognizably immature birds which still retain the far more conspicuous and characteristic white area in the remiges, as well as a grey-black iris and yellow-orange bill and legs.

REFERENCE

- BRITTON, P. & BRITTON H. 1971. Black-billed Barbet and Chestnut-fronted Shrike breeding in Kenya. *EAHNS Bulletin* 1971: 126-127.

Received 27 June 1977.